

Deliberative Session February 6, 2023

Moderator Lee Nyquist called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Moderator Nyquist announced that the New Boston Town Deliberative Session for 2023 has now arrived before all of us and welcome. He advised that he has a gavel that he does not intend to have to use it, but that he has it. So we're official, he announced that his name is Lee Nyquist, that he is the Town Moderator, residing at 78 Ridgeview Lane in New Boston.

He declared that a quorum is present, and now if we will bear with him, he is going to explain, as briefly as he possibly can, but it is somewhat likely, what the deliberative session is versus the official ballot election and how our procedure is going to work. Moderator Nyquist advised that simply stated, what we do here tonight creates the language of articles, Warrant Articles 2 through 28, which is going to appear on the Tuesday, March 14 Town Election, which will be held here between 7 in the morning and 7 in the evening. So the Warrant Articles that you have there are definitely not necessarily what's going to appear on the ballot. They will be if there are no amendments passed here tonight. But, if they are amended, then they'll appear in amended fashion. He will be applying what's called "Robert's Rules of Procedure", which is well known in the American jurisdictions, and also amplified by a wonderful little red book called "Town Meeting Time" that his father-in-law, Dave Nixon, gave him in 1992 when he passed the gavel to him. He stated that there's three distinguished Boston lawyers, who back in the 40's, 50's and 60's, did what people did in those days. They lived in little towns around Boston and they became experts in how to be town moderators, so he also read this, for example, there's something called "moving the question", which is known to some of you, where you might think that the debate has gone on long enough, as they say, he requires a two-thirds vote on that motion, because its inherently anti-democratic.

Moderator Nyquist stated that is the only distinction that he can think of, and the only time that a simple majority doesn't apply, none of the two-thirds applies here tonight, it only applies on March 14. So, what he will do when we begin the meeting is read each article, word for word, exactly as it's presented to you. One of the selectmen will then move that that article be moved along to the town election, then another one of the selectmen will second that motion, and it's his understanding tonight that the seconder is then going to explain the select board's position on the subject. At that time he will ask for discussion and questions, amendments and so forth, and anyone here who is a registered voter and has picked up their "V" card can speak. You must go to the microphone that you see in the middle here. You can't speak from the chair that you're in, you must come up speak into the microphone so we can all hear you, and so those that are listening to the streaming can hear you, and then you make your comments. Technically, all comments from the members of this town meeting, which is you; need to be directed to the Moderator. But, as the evening unfolds, sometimes the formality of that will break down a little bit, and he has no problem with that, as long as we are having a civil discussion, and questions that are relevant and courteous being

brought directly to the selectmen or other people who are here. Absolutely no comments can be directed at other people in the audience. That is verboten. He will not tolerate that. Moderator Nyquist stated that, as a matter of fact, although he is a really nice guy, and we are going to have a really nice time here tonight, he does not like incivility at all, and he will not have it. He observed that this is a great town, that he has been here for a long time, we're all friends and neighbors, and that's the way our session tonight is going to work. After the discussion, comments and so forth have been concluded, he will then ask for a vote. And what he will say is "those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye", and what happens is that people say "aye", who are in favor of the motion, "those opposed nay", that's the time to say "nay". Moderator Nyquist asked that the public please speak up, because he wants to hear you and make the right decision. He will then say "the ayes have it, the ayes have it, the ayes have it". If at any time during that little speech that he will make with the "ayes" or the "nays" as the case might be, somebody wants what's called a "division vote", that is when everyone stands up with "V" card high over their head, we'll take a brief recess, and the tally clerks will go around and determine what the actual vote is. There is two provisions actually for secret ballot, it's something that we've rarely had, we haven't had one in years, when we did have one probably years ago, it took a considerable period of time, and it would take a considerable period of time to go to a secret ballot. Nevertheless, it is statutorily required that the moderator allow such secret ballot. So, if you now have a desire to have a secret ballot on any of the Articles 2 through 28, 5 of you must sign a request, and bring it up here to the head table, and the Moderator will order a secret ballot. If during that period of time when he is saying "the ayes have it, the ayes have it, the ayes have it", or after the division vote, if 7 of you here request a secret ballot before we go on to the next article, then he is required by law to have a secret ballot on that article.

Moderator Nyquist advised that he is delighted to stay here as long as necessary in the interests of having a fully democratic situation here tonight, but that he does warn that it would probably take close to an hour to conduct a secret ballot on one of these questions. There is one important additional statute and it's a motion to restrict reconsideration. He advised that many years ago, and he has heard the stories of people hanging around, especially out back, until everybody else has left, and looking around the room and determining that they probably now have a majority, so they moved to reconsider and change the vote that happened on an earlier warrant article when everybody has left. So, that happened enough times and there was enough complaints around the State that RSA 40:10 was passed. He advised that, that allows any one of you to move to restrict reconsideration after a vote on that article has taken place, it needs to be seconded and then passed by all of you, and it does not need to be done after the article is acted on, it can be done several articles later, and it can be done en masse as well, for example, we could do 10 articles, nobody has moved to restrict, you can then get up and move to restrict articles 2 through 10. And what happens then is, probably not necessary for him to tell us, but we would have to come back at some point more than a week from now to reconsider a motion because that motion cannot be made after the reconsideration motion has been made.

Moderator Nyquist then went on to introduce the head table. He advised that we have a few new faces, and some faces that are well-known and new positions, and he will do his best to tell us who they are. To his right is Jennifer Allocca, who is the Town Finance Director, to her left and his right is our Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, and starting way down to the left is Town Counsel, that's an attorney, Mike Courtney is here, sitting next to him is Jen Brown, one of our Select Board members, sitting next to her is the Chair of the New Boston Select Board, Donna Mombourquette, sitting next to her is Select Person David Litwinovich, and Lorraine McKim, our Assistant Town Clerk is seated to his immediate left. He also advised that we have another town attorney, who's in Mike Courtney's firm, who's with us tonight, and her name is Maddie Osbourne, and she's sitting right over here.

Moderator Nyquist stated that everybody knows there is no smoking anywhere on the school grounds, so you can't sneak out back or anything and smoke, it's illegal. He then went on to ask that at this time we would all rise and join him in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then invited to the podium the Pastor of the Community Church of New Boston, Woody Woodland, for our invocation. Moderator Nyquist stated that he would like to give Woody some secular praise and recognition now. He stated that he believes that Woody has already celebrated his 40th anniversary as the Pastor of the New Boston Community Church, a pretty, pretty remarkable situation.

Moderator Nyquist then advised that we are going to consider Articles 2-28 tonight, 29 is just to adjourn, and Article 1 is for electing officers, and that will be done next month.

Moderator Nyquist read Article 2.

Article 02: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Seven Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,900,000)**, for the construction of a **Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Facility** in the Town of New Boston. Said sum to be raised by issuance of serial bond(s) or note(s) not to exceed **Seven Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,900,000)** under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bond(s) and note(s), to determine the rate(s) of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project and to take such other actions or to pass any other vote relative thereto as shall be in the best interest of the Town of New Boston. (3/5 ballot vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 02 was moved by Donna Mombourquette and seconded by Jennifer Brown. Jennifer Brown spoke to the article: This warrant article is requesting funding for the construction of a new fire department and emergency management services/EMS ambulance facility, because the current fire station is inadequate to meet the current and future needs of the growing community. The architectural firm, SMP, was hired to design a new fire station. The design concept is based upon input from the fire department and EMS personnel. The FD/EMS Safety Center Building Committee made up of Town residents, and the Town Select Board. The building committee

members, along with the FD/EMS employees visited various New Hampshire towns that had recently constructed fire, EMS and other safety center facilities to gain insight of the experiences and feedback from those towns that recently went through a similar process. This facility is expected to serve New Boston's fire and emergency management services needed for the next 40 to 50 years. The design concept photos and floor plan can be viewed on the Town of New Boston website, www.newbostonnh.gov.

Select Board Chairperson Donna Mombourquette then asked the Moderator for permission for non-residents to speak at this time. Moderator Nyquist advised that it is helpful to the meeting that non-residents, with his approval, who have relevant and important information that can be provided to explain or amplify the important work, be allowed to speak. Obviously, only in that capacity and only to those issues. In that respect, her request is granted and you may proceed in presenting the case for moving article 02, as written to the ballot in March. Chairperson Mombourquette then stated that they have invited the architects, designers, and fire department personnel may also speak to answer questions. Questions, only, there will not be a presentation. She introduced Jason LaCombe, who is from SMP Architecture, Tony DaCosta from Turnstone Corporation, Stacy Clark from Turnstone Corporation, and our Chief of Operations, Frank Fraitzl, as well as our Deputy Chief, Brian Dubreuil. Moderator Nyquist asked that those just introduced approach the microphone in the middle of the floor, and be ready to answer any questions. There is going to be no affirmative presentation in support of the article beyond what you have just heard, but the answers to the questions will be part of that evidence as well. So, if the folks who have been introduced who may or may not be answering questions could approach the microphone that is in the middle of the hall, he'd appreciate it, and those in the audience, members of our town meeting tonight, who have questions, should also begin by approaching that microphone and being asked to be recognized. Moderator Nyquist advised that every time anyone approaches the microphone you must state your full name and residence, and you need to do that every time you come up because the permanent record of this meeting is very important and must be complete and accurate, and we must know the names and addresses of everybody who is speaking here tonight. He advised at this time, the motion before you is to move Article 02 to the ballot, if there is discussion, questions, comments, or amendments, then those of you who have those should approach that microphone now, now is the time, and while he says that, while you are approaching, amendments need to be in writing, and as you can see, the gentleman is complying with that by presenting the Town Administrator right now with a written amendment. Moderator Nyquist asked the individual to state his name and address; he assumes he will be moving the adoption of the amendment, that will then need a "second", then he may speak at that time.

Mark Suennen, 325 Twin Bridge Road. So, I have an amendment that I would like to propose to insert the following clause after "...and other terms thereof", and before "to apply for, obtain..." So, this is the additional clause, "to require the Select Board to hold a Public Hearing not less than 15 days prior to signing any municipal debt agreement(s) for the purpose of obtaining comment and testimony on the rate(s) of interest, maturity and other terms of the debt agreement(s),".

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was a second to his motion.

Fred Hayes, 519 Bedford Road, seconded the motion.

Moderator Nyquist advised Mr. Suennen that he may now speak to his motion, in whatever detail he chooses.

Mr. Suennen stated that his explanation is that the Select Board's meetings over the past six months have been public meetings, but have not permitted public comment concurrent with the agenda topics while those topics are being discussed during the meeting. This article, as proposed, authorizes the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver debt instruments. This amendment will require the Select Board to obtain public comment and testimony related to the municipal debt agreement, prior to signing the bonds and/or notes.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was any further comment or questions. If there are no questions at this time, we are on the amendment.

Bruce Tostevin, 101 Wilson Hill Road. I have a question about the funding in the article.

Moderator Nyquist asked if that question is directed to the Select Board. Mr. Tostevin stated yes, and the Moderator advised that he may proceed.

Mr. Tostevin stated that you mentioned to apply for, and obtain federal, state, or other aid, if any which may be available for set project. At this time, are you aware of any federal, state aid that is available to us, to apply for, is this burden really just on us as a community?

Select Board Member David Litwinovich advised that he would refer to Assistant Chief Dubreuil if he misspoke. It is his understanding that in order to start applying for grants and other funding, that the project has to be approved first. Once the project is approved, then the Town can apply for grants and other funding options.

Mr. Tostevin stated his follow up question is then, have any of these other previous projects that you have visited, that have been done, have they been successful in these applications for state, federal funding?

Select Board Member David Litwinovich advised that it is his understanding that portions and equipment and different types of equipment can be applied for different grants. He advised that he was unaware of a station that was completely funded by a grant or other types of funding sources.

Moderator Nyquist advised the question before the audience is the adoption of the amendment. He asked if there were questions or comments pertinent to the amendment. To keep the record straight, the vote we take now is whether we want to approve Mr. Suennen's amendment, and that will become part of Article 02 if it passes, and become part of the official ballot in March. If the motion is defeated, then we will go back to the main motion on the warrant article as written. He

asked if there were any, what he calls, parliamentary inquiries, do any of you have any questions, or do any of you not understand what we are doing at this time. He advised that there is a question.

[Resident not identified, asked for a rereading of the amendment.]

Moderator Nyquist reread the amendment: “to require the Select Board to hold a Public Hearing not less than 15 days prior to signing any municipal debt agreement(s) for the purpose of obtaining comment and testimony on the rate(s) of interest, maturity and other terms of the debt agreement(s).”. He asked Mr. Suennen for confirmation on his reread of the amendment.

Melinda Charles, 126 Town Farm Road, was the resident asking for the reread of the amendment.

Gregory Widener, 46 Indian Falls Road. Just a clarification on the terminology, “not less than”, does that mean you want it 15 days or sooner? I am a little unclear on the terminology, whether or not “not less than” is correct.

Moderator Nyquist advised that it would have to be at least 15 days and it could be 16 or 50 or 100.

Mr. Widener asked if 15 or more. Moderator Nyquist stated yes.

Theresa Harkins, 29 Jessica Lane. Does the Select Board have a position on this amendment?

Moderator Nyquist asked a member of the Select Board to address this question.

Select Board Chairperson Donna Mombourquette advised that she thinks the amendment is sound, that she thinks it makes a lot of sense to get input from the citizens. She did have one correction, the Select Board does allow comments at select board meetings, but there is no dialogue or conversation at select board meetings, but questions, comments, are allowed on the agenda, but, personally, she is in favor of the amendment.

Moderator Nyquist asked if those comments were Ms. Mombourquette’s personal thoughts on the amendment.

Select Board Chairperson Donna Mombourquette indicated that they are unable to have an official position because we haven’t voted on it.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was anything further. Seeing none, he called for a vote. All those in favor of the motion to amend as seconded signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it, the ayes have it, the ayes have it, and the motion to amend is adopted.

Moderator Nyquist advised that we now return to the main motion as amended.

Moderator called for vote on amendment. Ayes have it. Main motion as amended..

Karen Scott, 110 Dane Road. On the Town website it shows the bond figures. Is there any way that we can update that to actually show the bond schedule? Because I feel that the citizens should be aware of the actual total cost of the bond.

Donna Mombourquette asked that Jennifer Allocca, Finance Director, answer that question.

Jennifer Allocca, 30^{2nd} NH Turnpike. Yes, they can have those schedules posted onto the website, that is the intention.

Karen Scott. Okay, because they are not showing that right as of yet.

Jennifer Allocca. Is it just the tax effect?

Karen Scott. Yes, the interest effect, showing that it's actually the \$7.9 million bond is actually \$12.5 to \$13.5 million depending on how we proceed.

Jennifer Allocca: Yes, we can put those up.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was anything further. Seeing nothing, those in favor of the motion to move Article 02, as amended, along to the ballot next month signify by saying aye. Those opposed nay. The ayes have it, the ayes have it, the ayes have it.

Moderator Nyquist advised that he is going to be making sure that the Assistant Town Clerk has a copy of the amendment.

Chairperson of the Select Board Donna Mombourquette asked if the experts in the audience could speak. Moderator Nyquist it is a bit out of order and not necessary since the motion has already passed, he advised the experts may come up. He advised that he wants everyone to realize that Article 02 has already been adopted as amended.

Moderator Nyquist advised that the experts present have thanked us for our hospitality, and he thanks them for being here and being available to comment, if it were necessary.

Moderator Nyquist advised at this time we would be moving along to Article 03, the budget.

He passed along the copy of the amendment for Article 02 to the Assistant Town Clerk, and asked that the Board and the Staff look very carefully that the language on the Warrant is, and when it comes back to be voted on, and make sure that it properly incorporates the Amendment.

Moderator Nyquist read Article 03.

Article 03: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an **Operating Budget**, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth in the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Six Million Eight Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Five Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$6,831,518)**. Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be **Five Million Eight Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$5,824,453)**, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of New Boston or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 5-1)

Article 03 was moved by Jennifer Brown and seconded by David Litwinovich. David Litwinovich spoke to the article: The operating budget includes routine, and for the most part, recurring expenses related to staffing (including salaries and benefits), supplies, utilities, vehicles, maintenance, repairs, and the like required for the day-to-day operation of Town departments. (Estimated Tax Impact Net of Estimated Revenue \$5.33) He asked Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, Finance Director Jennifer Allocca, and the Department Heads for their presentation and any questions.

Moderator said the Select Board are offering an amendment. He will read the amendment, but to make sure that we are following the rules appropriately, and it's going to be somewhat cumbersome, he is going to ask one of the Select Board members, actually two of them, to come up here after he reads it, and they move it and second it, but he is going to go ahead and read it now.

Amendment: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an **Operating Budget**, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth in the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Six Million Eight Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$6,822,518)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **Five Million Eight Hundred Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$5,815,453)**, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of New Boston or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only." **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 5-1)**

Moderator said it looks like a situation where the budget is going to be reduced by \$9,000, but he is going to leave that to the presentation. At this time, he is asking one of the Select people to have someone come up to move the amendment and then have someone right behind to step up and second the amendment.

Article 03 as amended was moved by Jennifer Brown and seconded by David Litwinovich.

Moderator recognized those individuals that the Select Board has requested him to recognize to make a presentation on the adoption of Article 03 as amended.

Jennifer Allocca, Finance Director: I going to do a quick presentation regarding the 2023 proposal, and a little bit about the process. The budgets are developed by the department managers, usually in September. Throughout October, a detailed review is conducted by myself, the Town Administrator, along with each of the department managers. And then the formal public review by the Finance Committee begins in November with any adjustments and recommendations that are to be made. And in December, the Select Board conducts their own review based on the recommendations from the Finance Committee and the Finance Director and the departments, and they are making their own recommendations or adjustments. And then a final review is done by

the Board at a public hearing in January. And then once that public review is done, and input is provided at the Deliberative Session, where we are today, and where the articles will be finalized for the warrant to be voted on March 14. So, just to give a little bit of a breakdown of what the tax bill looks like, you have your Town budget which makes up 23.7% of your total tax bill, along with the local school at 66.1%, State schools is 5.7%, and then your county tax is 4.7% of your total tax bill. So, that is what we are talking about tonight is the sliver, so that equates for the 2022 tax rate, the Town's portion of the total tax rate is \$4.54. Total appropriations that are being requested for 2023 were originally \$6,831,518, which as you heard with the amendment, was lessened by \$9,000. There is a veterans credit for those who apply in Town who receive a credit against their property tax bills, which totals about \$172,500. And then less what the Town estimates revenue to come in, usually it's about \$1.53 Million. That is usually comprised of things like motor vehicle registrations, also some State funding that we receive, meals and rooms, highway Block Grant funds, and things of those sort, which is the State and other revenue. And then subtract that from the appropriation and the veteran credit, you have a net to be raised from taxation at about \$5 Million. Now, keep in mind that estimated Town revenue funds are very conservative figures; we don't want to overestimate and then find out later on that we didn't collect enough to be able to pay for all the appropriations. So that usually ends up coming in at a higher number. And then you divide it by the 2022 valuation, which the 2022 valuation was \$938,240,329, which is equal to about \$5.35. In 2023 we have 17 special warrant articles, with 6 that have potential tax impacts. So, that's excluding that there are 2 warrant articles that, if we should go to default, those would be voted on, and depending whether they pass or fail, would then become part of the budget. So, out of all those 17 special warrant articles, if they were all to pass, the total amount is \$2,955,378. That represents about \$0.36 in additional funding. And this does not include the bond article for the Fire Department/EMS warrant article. So, our next slide shows you a difference of what was the tax calculation for 2022, which was recently done, I believe we got it in November. With the budget, the special warrants with the veterans credit is an assumption that we are using for 2023, it may be more, it may be a little less, less your revenues, and then what your net amount to be raised in taxation. So it is going from \$4.54 to \$5.71. So, if the Town operating budget net of estimated revenues were to pass, the estimated increase would be \$.81 per thousand. And if all warrant articles were to pass, the estimated Town tax rate would increase by about \$1.17 per thousand. So, to give a little bit of history on the Town's population, we've grown to 6,100 from 5,300 about 10 years ago, and the last few years we've seen several new homes go up, about 72. This has created much more of a demand on the Town's services, and that's required. The tough part is that a lot of that funding that usually comes from the State is now being put towards the taxpayer, and that is why we have to, we're not getting the same funding that we used to do from the education and cost sharing. Here is a graph, this gives you what the tax rate has been since 2007 through 2022. The red top line is the total annual tax, and then you have the local school, and then the Town's piece is that blue line at the bottom. There are 8 special warrant articles with potential tax impacts. Warrant Article 05, which is a CRF (Capital Reserve Fund), for the Fire Department vehicles, Article 07, which will be read, will be in the Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund funding, Article 13, Road Improvements, Article 15 the Town

Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund funding, 19 is the Record Retention for Expendable Trust, no. 20 is for the 4th of July and the associated police details, nos. 21 and 22, which are the 2 default special warrant articles, no. 21 being for the additional amount for the fire and police dispatch contract for their annual increases, that wasn't in last year, it was not in last year's budget, and then no. 22, Fire Department per diem staffing, again only if the budget were to fail. This is a new model, we are looking for nights and weekends for per diem staffing, just because of the difficulties nowadays getting call volunteers to be able to show up to emergency response. Then there are 7 warrant articles that are being proposed to the Warrant which are going to be funded using unassigned fund balance. I know it's come up in previous years, how much of unassigned fund balance the Town has. The Town has a policy that they want a minimum of 7% of the total Town budget, which includes school, not just the town but town and school budget, and we felt that as of the 2022 tax rate setting that that number was significantly more than the 7%, it was about 11%, and the Select Board and the Town Administrator and myself felt that maybe we should utilize that unassigned fund balance to help pay for some of these warrant articles. So, these are listed, again, just in numerical order, not in any particular or priority, the Police Department renovation, partial funding, Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund, Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, the Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, Contingency Fund, which is a new warrant article being proposed, which is completely funded through unassigned fund balance, the Municipal Facilities Expendable Trust Fund and the G.I.S. Mapping for the Town, the first of 2 years. And the projects that we are focused on in 2023, one of them being the G.I.S. (Geographic Information System) project, it's a 2 year project, if the Town Warrant passes, from what I'm told, the company who's performing the mapping for us, will have drones out that very next day, as long as everything, the ground's kind of melted, but they want to get out before all the leaves are on the trees, and they will be doing the aerial photography of the Town, and then they do the base mapping based upon those aerial photographs, and then they will have it digitally recorded. We do have the company representative from the G.I.S. mapping company here, so once that article comes up, if anyone has questions. We're continuing with the record retention scanning project, was the first of a couple of years, the building and assessing office files were overflowing, there were many, many cabinets, and now a lot of those have been scanned and cleared out, and for any of you who have visited out building department office, it doesn't look like that on the left anymore, it's much nicer and more inviting to come to. But, we are continuing to get other departments as well to have items scanned, their documents scanned. And then, just so you know, tonight, all of our Department Managers are here, and if there are any other particular questions about the budgets, they are here to answer some questions, and we're just trying to present the most efficient use of taxpayer's money, but still be able to provide those quality of services that we know everyone expects. Thank you again very much for coming out tonight.

Moderator Nyquist advised just to remind the audience, and to remind me, the parliamentary situation is that there is a motion which has been seconded to amend Article 03, the budget. He stated that we need to vote on the amendment, which, apparently, was simply approximately a

\$9,000 reduction in the number that will appear on the ballot. He asked if there was any discussion or questions on the amendment.

Melinda Charles, 126 Town Farm Road. Can you please explain where the \$9,000 is coming out of the line budget, please.

Moderator Nyquist called on Jennifer Allocca to answer the question.

Jennifer Allocca: During the budget hearing it was discussed that \$9,000 for the gravel pit rental that was in the highway department was no longer needed. So, it was agreed by the Select Board to remove that.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was anything else on the amendment. Those in favor of adopting the motion to amend by reducing the town budget number by approximately \$9,000, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator Nyquist advised that we are anticipating, but we need to wait, if there is a motion to restrict, after we have completed Article 03. You can't step in now, if you have something to say about the amendment he apologizes. He advised we are now on to the main motion, which is move Article 03 as amended on to the Town ballot. He asked if there was further discussion or questions at this time.

Karen Scott, 110 Dane Road. In regards to the operating budget, thank you for the \$9,000 decrease, I appreciate that. But I do have a question in regard to, I know that in the budget, there are a couple of items that have been added to the budget that the town citizens have not approved as of yet. So, I'm curious as to what's going to happen if the operating budget fails. What will happen with those situations. As an example, the per diem apartment building, I believe it's \$19,200, and that exact figure may be off a little bit. But, that has been put into the budget, but the citizens have not voted in favor of it yet. However, my understanding is the lease has already been signed, and we already have or are working on cable TV getting installed there. So, what will happen if the operating budget does not pass with that lease, where we have already signed the lease.

Moderator Nyquist asked if one of the Selectmen, or one of their designees, like to address the question.

Chairperson Donna Mombourquette advised that periodically throughout the year, any year, if situations occur that require addressing, the Select Board does have the authority to assure that the cost is, or the need, is met. So, yes, it is in this year's budget coming, if the budget fails, then we would go to default. And, at that time, the Select Board would determine what the budget would look like going forward. Right now that is about all I can say, we haven't met related to what the budget will look like if we go to default, or specifically what line items will be funded. So that's the answer to the question.

Karen Scott: Okay, to follow up on that question then, my understanding is, so we already have approximately \$349,000 in the operating budget for the Per Diems for the Fire Department, and

granted, there is a special warrant as well for that, if the operating budget passes, that warrant would be null and void, however, there is also a contingency in there for officer duty for weekends, and there is also a salary in there for the Fire Department operations manager. So, if none of these paths we're looking at \$400,000 or more, and where would you get \$400,000. I understand that there is a contingency fund and there has been conversation in regards to this contingency fund, which is also a special warrant, and from what I've read, there's already thoughts of taking that contingency fund and using that for some of the expenses that I have just mentioned. So, where does that \$400,000 come from.

Donna Mombourquette advised that she can't give a specific answer to that because the Board has not met to discuss that. And when they do, if we go to default and there are costs that are being covered currently, the Board will have to make a decision on what things are going to look like in the Town. She advised that is the best she can say.

Karen Scott: Lastly, relative to all of this as well, we have, I believe it is \$770,000 taken out of the unassigned fund, so right now we're at, my understanding is, 11.2%, which is over what we need. We cannot drop below 5%, but with taking out that \$770,000, it will drop us down to approximately 7%. So, now we're still talking another, if there is a default budget, or the operations budget does not pass, where we've already used up quite a bit of our unassigned fund, so I'm just curious as to where your money is going to come from. Seems ill planned.

Donna Mombourquette advised she is really not clear on Ms. Scott's question.

Karen Scott: So, we're taking out \$770,000 unassigned fund, right.

Donna Mombourquette stated, yes, your taxes, yes.

Karen Scott: But now we have nowhere to go to cover these \$400,000 unless you're going to take from other departments, meaning the Police Department, or the Transfer Station or the Highway Department to cover this other funding.

Donna Mombourquette advised that just speaking for herself at this time, going to default is a serious issue, both for the citizens and for the people who come to work every day to operate the Town. She advised we have been through default before, and our staff suffered greatly, in terms of morale, she advised she doesn't know what will happen if we go to default and be \$1Million short. She stated the unassigned fund balance is in the operational budget, it's not in the default budget, so they would not have authority from the Town, to the best of her knowledge, it couldn't be voted in, so we couldn't use it. That's the answer.

Moderator Nyquist asked if we have further questions or comments on the motion to move the budget, as amended, along.

Melinda Charles, 126 Town Farm Road. I just had a question about a couple of the salary lines that, like the previous operating budget was a certain number, and then the budget requested is significantly more, like 10% plus. But then the default budget is pretty close to the requested as

opposed to being closer to the past operating budget. So I'm just trying to understand the difference and the extreme change in the default when that is usually not the case.

Moderator Nyquist asked if one of the Select Board would like to respond. He advised that the Chair of the Select Board has requested that the Finance Director address your question.

Finance Director Jennifer Allocca advised that it was her understanding that with a default budget that you use the last rate that was given to the employee. And you use that over the 52 weeks, so you wouldn't include any new raises or additional cost of living increases, because the budget in previous year was usually the first 3 months was a rate from the prior year, and then you have only the remaining 9 months at a new array. So, some of it's going to be, depending upon how much that was, it may make it significantly higher. Donna [Mombourquette] just reminded her to give some clarification, that there were some clerical departments that were all in the Select Board's budget that were then moved back into their respective operating departments just because it wasn't working out the way it was originally intended.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there is anything else on the motion to move Article 03 as amended. He advised just to remind the audience that the state of the situation here is on Article 03 there is a motion, as amended, to move it along as amended, to the official ballot to be voted on March 14. Those if favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed nay. The ayes have it, the ayes have it, the ayes have it. And Warrant Article 03, as amended, will move along to the official ballot.

Lynn Wawrzyniak, 9 Davis Lane. I would like to make a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 02 and 03.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was a second.

Melinda Charles, 126 Town Farm Road. Seconded the motion.

Moderator asked for vote on the motion to restrict consideration of Articles 02 and 03, both as amended, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay.

Moderator Nyquist advised the ayes have it, and reconsideration of these two articles is restricted.

Moderator read:

Article 04: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Nine Hundred Eight Thousand Dollars (\$908,000)** for the purpose of **constructing and furnishing an attached addition at the Police Station** located at 116 Old Coach Road, with **Six Hundred Seven Thousand Dollars (\$607,000)** to come from the American Rescue Program Act Funds (ARPA) and the balance of **Three Hundred One Thousand Dollars (\$301,000)** to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 04 was moved by David Litwinovich and seconded by Donna Mombourquette. Donna Mombourquette spoke to the article: The Police Station was completed in 1994. Per the Town's

2018 master Plan and the 2005 Master Plan, the police station at 116 Old Coach Road does not have the required building sprinkler system and adequate space. The addition will provide improvements for safety and space including secure booking and holding rooms, increased space for evidence and storage, a female locker room, increased security monitoring, as well as much needed exterior structural renovations and septic system updates. A copy of the design plans can be viewed on the Town's website at www.newbostonnh.gov. **(No current year tax impact.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised there is a motion to move Article 04 along to the official ballot as written. It's been seconded. Is there any discussion or comment. Seeing or hearing none, those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it, and Article 04, as written, moves along to the official ballot.

Moderator Nyquist advised as the evening proceeds I may recognize certain individuals here who are worthy of special recognition. He is going to miss a whole lot of you, but he is going to start with Representative Keith Ammon, our representative in the House of Representatives, is here with us tonight. He also notices his long time friend, Recreation Director, Mike Sindoni.

Moderator read:

Article 05: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Fire Department Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund**. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 05 was moved by Donna Mombourquette and seconded by Jennifer Brown. Jennifer Brown spoke to the article: This yearly Capital Reserve Fund includes both replacement and mid-life refurbishment of all Fire Department vehicles except the ambulances, which are purchased through a separate ambulance fund that derives its revenues from user fees not taxes. The vehicle roster includes two front-line pumpers and a pre-owned pumper at the Hilltop Station, a tank truck, a forestry truck, a light rescue vehicle and a command vehicle which was added by the Fire Wards three years ago and is expected to be placed on the Town Warrant for 2024. These vehicles are extremely expensive, with pumpers expected to cost over \$700,000 in the next purchase cycle. With a midlife refurbishment, these pumpers generally have a 25-year life cycle. The other vehicles also have 15-30 year cycles. While this is good on one hand, it makes projecting future costs problematic. Based on the replacement cost of each vehicle plus equipment for the year of replacement or refurbishment, the Capital Improvement Program (C.I.P.) Committee recommends \$175,000 each year for the next six years. This is an increase of \$45,000 over the amount requested in previous years primarily due to the continuing increases in costs of replacement Fire Department vehicles. The Department has seven (7) vehicles with a life expectancy of between 15-30 years. The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(Estimated tax impact \$0.19)**

Moderator Nyquist advised there is a motion to move Article 05 along to the official ballot as written. It's been seconded. Is there any discussion or comment. Seeing or hearing none, those

in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it, and Article 05, as written, moves along.

Moderator Nyquist recognized Gerry Cornett with us tonight, head of transfer station, head of all things recycling in New Boston, and, of course, we also have Chief Jim Brace with us tonight, Chief, welcome.

Moderator read:

Article 06: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$339,000)**, for the purchase of a **Utility Vehicle**, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of said amount from the **Fire Department Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund**. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the specified purchase is complete or December 31, 2025, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 06 was moved by Jennifer Brown and seconded by David Litwinovich. David Litwinovich spoke to the article: The Capital Improvement Program (C.I.P.) had the 2005 Utility 2 – Light Rescue Ford F450 scheduled to be replaced in 2020 based on a 15-year life cycle. In 2020, the replacement was rescheduled to 2023 because of the good condition of the vehicle due to the preventive maintenance schedule. The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact)**

Moderator Nyquist advised there is a motion to move Article 06 along to the official ballot as written. It's been seconded. Is there any discussion or comment. Seeing or hearing none, those in favor of the motion, as seconded, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it, and Article 06, as written, moves along.

Moderator advised that there is a particularly interesting Article 28. And he just wanted folks to realize that you have the discretion, with a motion and a second in a vote, to move any article ahead or back for that matter from the way it is officially published here. So, for example, if you wanted to discuss Article 28 at some point, while most folks are still here, or any other article, while most folks are still here, you can move that ahead

Roger Dignard, 146 South Hill Road. I am one of the Energy Commissioners. We do have a representative here tonight from Standard Power, who would be the initial vendor for this application, so it would be nice if we could move ahead. So, I move to discuss the article at this point in time on the agenda.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was a second to the motion to move Article 28 along.

Scott Hunter, 116 Riverdale Road. Second the motion.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there is any discussion on the motion to move it along. Those in favor to move it along to now, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it. So, he is turning his page to Article 28.

Moderator Nyquist read Article 28 (taken out of order at vote):

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the **New Boston Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan**, which authorizes the Select Board to develop and implement New Boston Community Power as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E:7) with no impact on taxes and with no obligation to participate. The program would provide a new default electric supply and new renewable energy supply options for customers in New Boston. There is no cost to the Town budget, and no obligation to participate. Customers can opt out at any time and return to utility default service. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Moderator Nyquist urged the Select Board to recognize the individual or individuals which Mr. Dignard mentioned in making his motion to make sure that the gentleman has an opportunity to make a presentation. And, at this time he recognizes David Litwinovich for the purpose of making a motion.

Article 28 was moved by David Litwinovich and seconded by Donna Mombourquette. Donna Mombourquette spoke to the article: The Town is considering implementing a new program called Community Power, or as in other states, called Municipal Aggregation. The objective of this program is to save the Residents of New Boston money on their electric bill. If adopted by a majority of Town voters, The New Boston Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan would empower the Town to enter into Electric Services Agreements with Competitive Electric Power Suppliers to serve the electric supply needs of residents and small businesses. The intent is to pool our electricity demand and use the power of the competitive market for cost savings and more local renewable energy supply choices. The Town currently uses a similar contract for savings on municipal power for town buildings. **Program savings over the contract period is the goal of the program along with more renewable energy choices, but savings cannot be guaranteed.**

This program would affect only the supply line on customer electric bills. Transmission and distribution, emergency services, and billing all stay with the distribution utility, Eversource. **Eligible customers are automatically enrolled in the new program by default following notification of program rates and an opt out period.** They can also elect to choose an optional product. There are no fees to opt out, join, or change options within the program. Customers that opt out and then rejoin the program may be charged a market kWh rate. Customers currently on competitive supply are not automatically enrolled, but they can opt in. There is no cost to the Town Budget. The full text of the Plan is available on the Town website at www.newbostonnh.gov.

Donna Mombourquette asked the Moderator for permission to ask Emily Manns from the power folks, she is not a resident of the Town, and she is asking permission for her to be able to answer questions from the residents.

Moderator Nyquist so granted, and asked that she come up to the microphone in the middle and we will see if anybody has any questions for you, or anybody else for that matter. If folks in the

audience do have questions for her or anybody else, please approach the microphone at this time and state your name and address.

Bruce Tostevin, 101 Wilson Hill Road. Are there other communities us that are doing this right now, what is the estimated savings that these residents are seeing from changing.

Emily Manns, Standard Power. We are the Town's energy broker currently and we are providing competitive community power services to 12 New Hampshire towns. Community Power is new in New Hampshire, so the towns that are participating at this point are dotted around the area. We have Wilton and Milford working with us, which are not too far from here, that would be a couple of neighbors. We can't estimate savings because there are no programs yet in New Hampshire, but the savings, because the, as you probably know, the utility default supply rates are very high right now, there are about \$.20 a kilowatt hour. So, we are anticipating if, for programs we can launch in this time, we can do pretty significant savings upon launch. It's our business, we don't promise savings, but it's our business as a broker to deliver savings to all of our customers and we're going to do that for programs.

Roger Dignard, 146 South Hill Road. Like anything there is never an absolute guarantee. But they have also been providing power in New England, and when we see a graph of what the power rates were in Massachusetts, it was significant savings, other than one blip I think for possibly a month where they were slightly above the utility rate, but otherwise they trend under the utility rate. And correct me if I'm wrong, but at the current reading on the graph, I think it was \$0.16 versus \$0.22 a kilowatt hour. But that's an extreme example. Overall, it might represent a few cents per kilowatt hour against your electric bill, but we think this is a pretty safe way of getting everyone in Town some cost savings. And if you feel as an individual you do not reap the savings, you just opt out and go back to Eversource, and there's no cost involved for you to do that. I just wanted to make that clarification.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was further discussion.

David Mullen, 136 Foxberry Drive. I just wanted to know net metering would work with the program.

Emily Manns. So, net metering is where someone with solar panels on their house would sell power back into the electric grid and they may or may not purchase electricity. Net metering customers can participate in the program and receive the program rates, so that isn't currently true. Net metering customers need to be on the utility default. So, that's one benefit. We haven't, upon launch, that will be the participation for net metering customers.

Keith Ammon, PO Box 38. What was the process by which the vendor was selected.

Moderator Nyquist asked the Select Board or anyone else who has information about that.

Emily Manns, Standard Power. The chair of the committee can't be here tonight, and so I think it would be appropriate for him to answer. I am not sure if someone else can answer that, but I just want to say that is why someone's not right here.

Moderator Nyquist asked what is the name of the chair of the committee so we can have it for our record.

Emily Manns, Standard Power. The chair of the committee is Daryl Luter, and he had a family emergency tonight

Moderator Nyquist recognized Donna Mombourquette.

Donna Mombourquette: She asked Jennifer Allocca to speak because she was here when the original contract with the Town for town buildings was signed with Standard Power.

Jennifer Allocca, 30 2nd NH Turnpike. The Town has been in a contract with Standard Power for a lower rate to than utilizing the default source from Eversource. And we've been very happy with the rates that Standard Power and the service that they provided, so when Donna and I found out about this community power program I reached out to her and she suggested going to the Energy Commission and bring it to their attention, and we've contacted Emily and Ryan Polson from Standard Power and asked them if they could provide us with some more background information on it. So once they were able to do that and speak with the Energy Commission, we felt that because the Town already had a really good relationship with them we continue to use them for this particular program.

Roger Dignard, 146 South Hill Road. As was indicated, Daryl, unfortunately, is the committee chair, and wasn't here to do the presentation tonight. I was here just for moral support. They have a large territory established in New England, and they are looking to establish a similar large territory with a lot of proposed towns in New Hampshire. So, for that reason as well, it seems to be an appropriate choice. It doesn't mean that in the future we're absolutely locked into them as a provider; we'd like to continue to work with them going forward, but it doesn't preclude us from potentially shopping it around in the future.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was anything further. He advised the motion that is pending and seconded is to move Article 28 as written to the Town ballot in March. Those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it, Article 28 moves along.

Moderator Nyquist advised that it is his understanding that there is another person here tonight who is going to be providing some expertise and won't get reached for awhile unless one of you courteously moves Article 18, this is the G.I.S. Mapping article. He asked if the audience would like to move that along for discussion now while everybody is still here, and the individual with the expertise can go home who has no interest in the other articles. He asked if anybody wanted to move Article 18. Seeing no one, he advised they would move back to Article 08 for now, and the audience can think about that.

Moderator Nyquist advised that Karen Scott has moved that Article 18 be advanced. We have a second from Jennifer Allocca. He asked that those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it, so we do indeed move Article 18 along.

Moderator read (out of order):

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000)**, for a **Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) Mapping**, the first of two (2) annual appropriations for a total of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$220,125). The sum of \$110,000 to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 18 was moved by Jennifer Brown and seconded by David Litwinovich. David Litwinovich spoke to the article: In 2022, the G.I.S. mapping was removed from the Capital Improvement Program (C.I.P.) after it was determined that this is not a capitalizable asset. It entails the implementation of a computerized Geographic Information System (G.I.S.), to track the Town's parcel maps and provide detailed information not available when utilizing our paper maps. Electronic mapping will ensure equitable assessment of each parcel. This project will include review of existing parcels and remapping for accuracy. The benefits of utilizing G.I.S. with infrastructure planning, design, budgeting and asset maintenance includes improved workflows, decreased costs, improved efficiency, improved collaboration amongst Town departments and other local and state governments. Anyone will have real-time access from anywhere on any electronic device. The mapping will contain other various data such as wetlands, zoning, floodplain, drainage, and other critical information. **(No current year tax impact)**

David Litwinovich stated that he would like to recognize Tim Fountain from CAI Technologies who is present here to answer any questions.

Moderator Nyquist asked that that individual please approach the microphone in the center of the building, if he has any presentation that he would like to make, feel free to do so now, and then folks will be able to ask you questions.

Tim Fountain, Vice President of CAI Technologies. I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there were people in the audience who would like to ask questions of this individual.

Fred Hayes, 519 Bedford Road. I actually have a question for the Selectmen, because I've always thought we needed this program, so I have no questions about it and what it does. The funding of it, guys, so we're going to take \$110,000 from the unassigned balance this year, what happens next year. You're going to have to put it on a warrant article, you can't slide it in the budget, and you know, what happens if it doesn't pass next year. I just wonder if the best use of the unassigned fund balance is this, and if this is the best use of it, then do the whole thing, not half of it.

Moderator asked if anyone would like to respond to what he just had to say. There's been a request that our Finance Director, Jennifer Allocca, address the question.

Jennifer Allocca: The reason we chose to use unassigned fund balance was because we felt that this was something that was really needing to be moved forward, just considering how important it is to make sure the tax maps are done equitably, so while making sure everyone is paying their fair share. While we were discussing ways to utilize the unassigned fund balance during the Finance Committee meetings, it was discussed to say that maybe this would be a project that would be worthwhile. Originally, it was broken down into three year funding segments, and it was at the suggestion of the Finance Committee to build it into two years so that the first year would actually have more funding in it from the unassigned fund balance than would originally be required by the contract. And then, so if in the second year if maybe there was some pushback and it didn't pass we would still have some funding again to try again for another year. If it is available for unassigned fund balance, depending upon where we are at tax rate setting this coming October and November, maybe it's something we would utilize again.

Moderator asked if anything further.

Bruce Tostevin, 101 Wilson Hill Road. If this is passed in the budget next year, as you mentioned, how long does this project take, to map out New Boston. Would this be done in a year or less. My second question is, as we build and the Town builds new buildings and homes and so on, would we have to remap some of these areas, say, annually or every few years. So there's ongoing or sustaining costs for this. My last question is it says it's going to be available; anybody will have real-time access on any electric device, is this just a common software program that you get on your computer and you log in and see this on the Town website, or how does that work. So, we're looking at how long is it going to take, and does it need to be reviewed every year or two, as we build, and access.

Tim Fountain, CAI Technologies: I am going to do my best to try to remember all three of those. First off, the project is scheduled for a three-year period. The first year, if approval is granted, this spring will be the aerial photography. The next year in 2024 would be all the parcel research, all the deed research, and survey research, and the third year will be the parcel compilation and delivery of the project at the end of 2025. Second question, once the project is completed, will need to be maintained as new subdivisions, boundary line adjustments, surveys are recorded. Those will need to be incorporated into the mapping system and updated, as well as new construction for building footprints or roof-prints. I've estimated, based on the information I've gathered from town officials, an estimated budget of \$2,000 annually to maintain the mapping and \$3,000 a year annual for the online mapping system that's included in the project. At the conclusion of the project, the data will be made available through a browser-based online system, you will need power or battery on your mobile device or computer to access that information.

Moderator asked if anything else. He advised we are on Article 18, it's been moved and seconded to go along to the official ballot. Those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 07: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund** to maintain the Emergency Management communications and related system. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 07 was moved by David Litwinovich and seconded by Donna Mombourquette. Donna Mombourquette spoke to the article: In 2020, the Town voted to establish an Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund for the collection of funds to maintain the Emergency Services communications and related systems. The C.I.P. Committee is continuing to request a \$20,000 annual deposit into this fund to meet the needs of the radio tower maintenance scheduled in 2027. The funding under this article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(Estimated tax impact \$0.02)**

Moderator Nyquist advised the motion has been seconded, and asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor of the motion as seconded, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator Nyquist advised that at this time we are about to proceed with Article 08, but he would like to recognize special people to me, the supervisors of the checklist who have been here tonight checking you in, and who really have an extraordinary role to play in producing and maintaining the checklist, and then being here to assist on election day. He advised, if you don't know what you're doing in that job, you're in deep trouble. And they do know what they are doing, and they are an incredible assistance to us in running our elections in here tonight, late into the evening they are still here. Wendy Lambert, Dot Marden, David Mudrick, are all our supervisors he thanks them for their contributions.

Moderator read:

Article 08: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund**. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. **(No amount to be raised from taxation.)** (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 08 was moved by Donna Mombourquette and seconded by Jennifer Brown. Jennifer Brown spoke to the article: The Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund covers the replacement of two (2) full-sized 6-wheel dump trucks, one (1) smaller 6-wheel water truck and five (5) 10-wheel trucks with plows. The C.I.P. Committee recommends a \$150,000 Capital Reserve Fund deposit in 2023 and future years. This is an increase of \$30,000 per year in order to maintain balances in

the fund needed to purchase these vehicles. The funding under this article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised Article 08 is before you, there is a motion before you to move it to the official ballot, and asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 09: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 09 was moved by Jennifer Brown and seconded by David Litwinovich. David Litwinovich spoke to the article: The Capital Reserve Fund previously covered the replacement cost of the grader, loader and backhoe. In 2022, the Town voted to add a vibratory roller and an excavator to the roster of heavy equipment. The C.I.P. Committee agreed to add the roller, but the excavator is still under lease and not yet owned by the Town. Adding these pieces to the repurchase schedule does not change the recommended on-going deposit of \$45,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund since all of these pieces have working lives in excess of 20 years. The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised the issue before you is moving Article 09 to the official ballot, and asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund**. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 10 was moved by David Litwinovich and seconded by Donna Mombourquette. Donna Mombourquette spoke to the article: This yearly Capital Reserve Fund will remain at its current funding of \$40,000. Upcoming projects to be funded by this Capital Reserve Fund in 2023 are replacements for Tucker Mill Road Bridge and Gregg Mill Road Bridge for which the Town will only be responsible for 20% of the engineering costs and Federal and State funds will cover the balance. The funding under this article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised the motion is to move Article 10 to the official ballot, and asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Two Hundred Seven Dollars (\$331,207)**, which represents 100% of the engineering study, preliminary design, permitting, right-of-way, final design and bidding for the replacement of the **Tucker Mill Road Bridge** over the Middle Branch Piscataquog River NHDOT Bridge # 087/150. The Town will be reimbursed 80% (up to \$264,965) of the actual engineering costs approved by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation State Bridge Aid Program, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of **Sixty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$66,242)**, from the **Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund** which represents 20% of the Town's share of total engineering costs. Construction costs are anticipated to be reimbursed 100% of actual qualified construction and construction engineering costs by the Federal Aid Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) Program. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2028, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 11 was moved by Donna Mombourquette and seconded by Jennifer Brown. Jennifer Brown spoke to the article: Tucker Mill Road Bridge was originally planned for replacement in 2025 on the New Hampshire State Bridge Aid Program. However, the Town was awarded the Federal Aid Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) Program which pays 80% of the preliminary design, permitting, right-of-way, final design and bidding costs and 100% of the construction costs. The funding under this article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised the motion is to move Article 11 as written along to the official ballot, and asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Laura Bernard, 43 Jessica Lane. I would like to restrict reconsideration on Articles 04 through 11, as well as 18 and 28.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was a second.

Keith Ammon seconded the motion.

Moderator Nyquist advised those in favor or restricting reconsideration on the articles suggested please signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator Nyquist recognized Laura Bernard for all work with the Town and 4th of July celebrations.

Moderator read:

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$362,856)**, which represents 100% of the engineering study, preliminary design, permitting, right-of-way, final design and bidding for the replacement of the **Gregg Mill Road Bridge** over the South Branch Piscataquog River NHDOT Bridge# 132/138. The Town will be reimbursed 80% (up to \$290,284) of the actual engineering costs approved by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation State Bridge Aid Program, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of **Seventy-Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars (\$72,572)**, from the **Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund** which represents 20% of the Town's share of engineering costs. Construction costs are anticipated to be reimbursed 100% of qualified actual construction and construction engineering costs by the Federal Aid Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) Program. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2028, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 12 was moved by Jennifer Brown and seconded by David Litwinovich. David Litwinovich spoke to the article: Gregg Mill Road Bridge was originally planned for replacement in 2027 on the New Hampshire State Bridge Aid Program. However, the Town was awarded the Federal Aid Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) Program which pays 80% of the preliminary design, permitting, right-of-way, final design and bidding costs and 100% of the construction costs. The funding under this article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised the question before you is to move Article 12 as written along to the official ballot, and asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it. Article 12 moves along.

Moderator read:

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000)**, for **Road Improvements**. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the road improvements are complete or until December 31, 2027, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 13 was moved by David Litwinovich and seconded by Donna Mombourquette. Donna Mombourquette spoke to the article: This yearly funding of roadwork has diminished the need for multi-million dollar bonds to repair severely deteriorated roads. The C.I.P. Committee once again included \$85,000 on the schedule for road improvement projects in each of the next six (6) years. Projects currently scheduled include Christie Road in 2023 and Beard Road in 2025. Road Agents have explained to the Committee these road improvements often include extensive tree trimming and drainage work prior to any repaving. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.09.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised the question before you is to move Article 13 along to the official ballot, and asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Nine Cents (\$207,465.09)**, for Town road-related upgrades and other road improvements, to be offset by revenue from the State of New Hampshire **Highway Block Grant Program** estimated to be **Two Hundred Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Nine Cents (\$207,465.09)**. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the said funds are expended or until December 31, 2028, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 14 was moved by Donna Mombourquette and seconded by Jennifer Brown. Jennifer Brown spoke to the article: This article is to accept the State of New Hampshire Highway Block Grant revenue and to expend for purposes allowed under said program. The funds can only be used for construction, reconstruction and maintenance of each municipality's Class IV and V highways. The funds can also be used towards equipment to maintain the local roads. The amount received is calculated based upon the Town's population in proportion to the entire State of New Hampshire's population and based upon the Town's Class IV and V road mileage in proportion to the total statewide Class IV and V mileage. **(No funds to be raised by taxation.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised the question before you is on Article 14, and asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund**. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 15 was moved by Jennifer Brown and seconded by David Litwinovich. David Litwinovich spoke to the article: As required by State Law (RSA 75:8-a), and the New Hampshire Constitution, the Town must revalue all real estate so that all assessments are at full and true value at least as often as every fifth year. A total amount of \$80,000 is the final estimated cost to complete a partial revaluation of all town properties in 2026. The next town full revaluation will be in 2031. The funding under this article is consistent with the C.I.P. Committee recommendation and scheduling. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.03.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised the question before you is on Article 15, and asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Contingency Fund** for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise, and further to raise and appropriate **One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)**, to be placed into this fund. This sum is to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund. Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 16 was moved by David Litwinovich and seconded by Donna Mombourquette. Donna Mombourquette spoke to the article: Effective as of August 24, 2013, towns may establish a contingency fund by approving an article at the annual meeting. The fund may be used by the governing body (Select Board) during the fiscal year to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses that may arise during that year and are not otherwise provided for in the Town's budget. The fund may not exceed one percent (1%) of the amount appropriated by the town (including the school budget) during the preceding year, excluding capital expenditures and debt service. A detailed report of all expenditures from the Contingency Fund must be made each year by the governing body and published in the annual report. RSA 31:98-a; RSA 32:11, VI. **(No current year tax impact.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised we are on Article 16.

Fred Hayes, 519 Bedford Road. I have a bunch of questions. I preface it by saying I never liked this on the School Board when we did this back in 2013. So what we're doing is we're adding \$100,000 to the budget that's already up 19.5%, because there is no limits or conditions other than Select Board approval on what this can be spent on. Is that true under the RSA. We can spend on anything, personnel, anything. So, we're just adding \$100,000 to a budget that we're already going to approve that's 20% higher than last year's budget. So I think it's a real reach and a big bite of the apple in this particular year.

Moderator Nyquist asked for further comment.

Mark Suennen, 325 Twin Bridge Road. I have an amendment for this one. I propose that we add the following sentence at the end of the article:

"The Select Board shall hold one Public Hearing not less than 10 days prior to each occurrence of expenditure from the Contingency Fund for the purpose of obtaining comment and testimony on the unanticipated expense(s) that document the use of the Contingency Fund."

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was a second to his motion to amend the article.

William McFadden, 110 Dane Road. Seconded the motion to amend the article.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was any discussion.

Mark Suennen: The justification, the explanation, at the Select Board meetings over the past six months, you've heard this before, over the past six months have been public meetings but have not permitted public comment concurrent with the agenda topics, while those topics are being

discussed during the meeting. The article, as proposed, names the Select Board as agents of the Contingency Fund. This amendment will require the Select Board to obtain public comment and testimony related to what makes these expenses unanticipated prior to expenditure.

Moderator Nyquist advised that the state of the parliamentary situation is that there is a motion to amend, in place before you, and which he has in writing, which is required, and has been duly seconded by Mr. McFadden. He advised mostly to remind him, and also you, the parliamentary situation is that there is a motion to amend Article 16, which has been seconded, and we are in the discussion period on the amendment.

Angela Sullivan 17 Briar Hill Road. If this amendment to Article 16 passes, do we have any way to gauge the cost of every single special meeting that we would need to call in order to have the public. I believe there will be a cost associated with that, I assume. Any idea.

Mark Suennen, 325 Twin Bridge Road. So, as clarification, we are not calling, the Article does not call for a special meeting, it calls for a public hearing, which could incur concurrent with a Select Board meeting. The Select Board meeting could be held, and an agenda item is to discuss the proposed use of the Contingency Fund, but that there would be public comment and testimony during that specific discussion, during that specific agenda item of the Select Board meeting. Relative to the cost, it would occur with the Select Board meeting, so there should be no significant additional cost to the Town.

Donna Mombourquette advised she does concur with Mr. Suennen's opinion, we're very fortunate to have the library, and a larger room where we can hold Select Board meetings, put this item on the agenda, and allow for public forum, if you will, so she concurs.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was any more discussion on the amendment. Those in favor of the motion to amend with the language provided by Mr. Suennen signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator Nyquist advised we are now on the main question, as amended, Article 16. He asked if there was any discussion on that motion.

Bruce Tostevin, 101 Wilson Hill Road. Maybe the Selectmen could just give us some idea, what has this contingency fund been used for in the past. I have no idea what we've spent it on.

Moderator Nyquist advised that the Select Board people are asking that the Finance Director respond to this question.

Jennifer Allocca: So, this is the first year that a contingency fund has been put on a town warrant since it's been allowed from 2013. So, in prior years, should there be an unanticipated expense such as a highway truck catching on fire due to downed power lines, you would have to go to the DRA (Department of Revenue) and request permission to withdraw those funds from unassigned fund balance. This particular warrant, contingency fund, creates the ability for the Select Board,

with the permission of the town voters, to utilize a certain dollar amount without going to that additional Department of Revenue for that permission.

Moderator Nyquist asked for further discussion to move the article as amended. The motion is before you, those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it, the ayes have it, the ayes have it. The motion to move the article along as amended carries.

Moderator read:

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Municipal Facilities Expendable Trust Fund**. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 17 was moved by Donna Mombourquette and seconded by Jennifer Brown. Jennifer Brown spoke to the article: This fund provides for the maintenance, improvement and renovations of all town government facilities to ensure that they are well maintained and do not fall into disrepair. A facilities maintenance inventory schedule will be established to effectively and efficiently utilize said fund. **(No current year tax impact.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised the question that has been moved and seconded is to move Article 17 to the official ballot, and asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000)**, the third-year funding request to be placed into the existing **Record Retention Expendable Trust** for digitizing the Town of New Boston's records that require long term/permanent storage. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 19 was moved by David Litwinovich and seconded by Donna Mombourquette. Donna Mombourquette spoke to the article: This article is to fund a multi-year project which entails the scanning of Town records from all departments. It is estimated to cost approximately \$80,000 for this four (4) to five (5) year undertaking. This will ensure the long-term security of the records, regain additional valuable office space, especially at Town Hall, and make this information more readily accessible to employees and, where appropriate, the public. In 2021, the first year of this project, the Building Office scanned and saved electronically all building files resulting in removal of 15 file cabinets and remodel of the office to expand to four (4) workstations from the previous three (3) previously in place before due to space constraints. In 2022, a similar project for Assessing was able to empty several filing cabinets at Town Hall. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02)**

Moderator Nyquist advised the question before you is on Article 19, and asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor of moving Article 19 along as written, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$11,850)**, for the purpose of supporting the New Boston Fourth of July Association, a non-profit organization, by funding a portion of the cost of the **Fourth of July fireworks** and cover the costs of **mandatory police details** for the parade and the fireworks events. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 20 was moved by Donna Mombourquette and seconded by Jennifer Brown. Jennifer Brown spoke to the article: This article is to support the annual Fourth of July celebration with fireworks and police detail. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01.)**

Moderator Nyquist asked if there is any discussion on Article 20. Those in favor of moving Article 20 along, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Lynn Wawrzyniak, 9 Davis Lane. I would like to make a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 12-17, 19 and 20.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was a second.

Laura Bernard, 43 Jessica Lane. Second the motion.

Moderator Nyquist asked if there was any discussion on the motion. Those in favor of moving the motion to restrict reconsideration on the designated warrant articles, which have been passed, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator Nyquist advised at this point in time reconsideration is restricted on all articles which have been discussed and moved on this evening.

Moderator read:

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars (\$3,574)**, for funding the additional cost of **Police and Fire Dispatch Services** contracted through the Town of Goffstown. If Article 03 (Operating Budget) passes, this Article will become null and void. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 21 was moved by Jennifer Brown and seconded by David Litwinovich. David Litwinovich spoke to the article: The contracts for Police and Fire dispatch services with Goffstown will increase by \$3,573.26 in 2023. \$1,153.46 dollars for the Fire Department and \$2,419.80 for the Police Department. Pursuant to RSA 40:13, which became effective August 24, 2018, increases in contracts cannot be included in a default budget if the budget were to fail. The requested funds cover only the contract increases should the budget fall to default. This would enable the Police

and Fire Department to continue dispatch services throughout 2023. (**Estimated Tax Impact \$0.004.**)

Moderator Nyquist advised the question before you is on Article 21. He asked if there is any discussion. Those in favor of moving Article 20 along to the official ballot as written, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars (\$349,386)**, for the purpose of funding **Per Diem Fire Department staffing**. If Article 03 (Operating Budget) passes this Article will become null and void. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 5-1)

Article 22 was moved by David Litwinovich and seconded by Donna Mombourquette. Donna Mombourquette spoke to the article: In September of 2022, the Select Board authorized emergency funding for the purpose of hiring per diem staffing (daytime, nights & weekends and officers) for the Fire Department following a lack of voluntary response to emergency calls. This funding was not in the prior budget and should the Town vote for a default budget, this article would allow the per diem coverage to continue. If Article 03 (Operating Budget) passes, this article becomes null and void. (**Estimated Tax Impact \$0.37.**) She advised members of the Fire Department are present to answer questions specifically related to staffing needs.

Moderator Nyquist advised that Fire Department folks can be on call if there are any questions.

Moderator Nyquist advised the issue before the audience is on Article 22, and specifically the motion by David Litwinovich, and seconded by Donna Mombourquette to move it along to the ballot.

Melinda Charles, 126 Town Farm Road: I'm just looking for clarification. So, Article 22 says that it's for the purpose of funding the per diem fire department staffing, and it's for \$349,000, but in the budget request when you add up the two per diem line items it's only 318. Can someone explain the difference between the 318 and the 349.

Moderator Nyquist advised that Donna Mombourquette, Chair of the Select Board has asked Jennifer Allocca to answer.

Jennifer Allocca: She advised that that question came up at the budget hearing as well. So, the amounts in the warrant article is the nights and weekends, which was not in original operating budget for 2022. Also, the additional per diem daytime coverage that was not in the 2022 operating budget, and the officers and weekend per diem additional cost that was not in the original 2022. So take those three amounts, and then you will also need to include the fica and medicare withholding taxes on top of that. So you take those three, she thinks it was 6...she forgets what the total is off the top of her head, percent, that will bring you to the \$349,000.

Moderator asked if there was further discussion. The question then is on the motion to move Article 22 to the official ballot. Those in favor of moving Article 20 along to the official ballot as written, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it, the ayes have it, the ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the **Town of New Boston Expendable Trust** created in **2001** under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the expenditure of principal and interest when required to meet legal benefits obligations of the Town. Said funds, in the amount of **Four Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars and Twenty cents (\$4,669.20)**, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's General Fund. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 23 was moved by Donna Mombourquette and seconded by Jennifer Brown. Jennifer Brown spoke to the article: The Trust was originally established to pay long-standing employees of the Town upon retirement. The current policy of longevity payments has since replaced the need for this Trust. The Trustees of Trust Funds recommend closing this Trust and placing the funds back into the General Fund.

Moderator Nyquist advised the question then is on the motion to move Article 23 to the official ballot, and asked if there was discussion. Those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it, the ayes have it, the ayes have it.

Moderator Nyquist advised that before the end of the night he wanted to recognize Bruce McKim who is with us tonight, he is doing great work as the head of the CERT program here in New Boston and you may see him at the recycling center if you're attentive to recycling your trash. Glad to have you Bruce. And he also wanted to mention Maralyn Segien who is now the Assistant to the Town Administrator, she is with us tonight and has been involved in town government and the school board for a long time, so a couple of more great New Boston folks contributing to our governmental process.

Moderator read:

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote in accordance with RSA 72:27-a to readopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, previously adopted, for an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit at \$500 per year. If readopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the 2023 property tax year. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 24 was moved by Jennifer Brown and seconded by David Litwinovich. David Litwinovich spoke to the article: The New Hampshire Legislature passed, and Governor Sununu signed into law House Bill 1667 (Chapter 121, Laws of 2022), amending eligibility criteria of the veterans' tax credit to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces. New Boston has an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit adopted in 2006 that must be readopted pursuant to RSA 72:27-a to remain in place and include the expanded eligibility effective for the April 1,

2023 tax year. If this article fails, the Standard Veterans' Tax Credit of \$50 will replace it for the April 1, 2023 tax year, which will include the expanded eligibility requirements.

Moderator Nyquist advised the issue before us is pertinent to Article 24, and asked if there was discussion. Those in favor of the motion to move Article 24 along, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator read:

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to change how the **Fire Chief** is selected from “**Elected by the Board of Fire Wards from among the Fire Wards.**” to “**Appointed by the Board of Fire Wards.**” pursuant to RSA 154:1 (e), IV. If passed, this change will take effect one year following the vote. (Majority Vote Required) (Select Board recommend 3-0)

Article 25 was moved by David Litwinovich and seconded by Donna Mombourquette. Donna Mombourquette spoke to the article: This article would remove the restriction set forth by the 1994 Warrant Article #22 which required the Fire Chief to be a Fire Ward. This restriction meant the only candidates that could be considered for the position of Fire Chief were the Fire Wards of the Town of New Boston. This restriction severely limits the potential candidates that may be considered for this position and defrays from the goal of selecting the most qualified candidate. It also corrects erroneous language to more accurately reflect the wording of NH RSA 154:1(e) which states, “Fire Wards of any number, as determined by the local legislative body, either elected pursuant to RSA 669:17 or appointed by the local governing body, with a fire chief and firefighters appointed by the Fire Wards”. **(No tax impact)**

Moderator Nyquist advised Article 25 is before us, it's been moved and seconded. He asked if there was comment or any presentations that need to be made. Those in favor of the motion to move Article 25 along, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator Nyquist advised at this point there are only two more substantive warrant articles.

Moderator read:

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to change the sum of money that the New Boston Forestry Committee is allowed to retain in the forest maintenance fund for the management of town forests according to RSA 31:111, 112 and 113 from **Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000)**, as previously adopted in 1992 Article 15 and amended in 1996 Article 15, to **One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)**. If adopted, this article shall take effect April 1st, and remain in effect until altered by a future vote of the town meeting. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0)

Article 26 was moved by Donna Mombourquette and seconded by Jennifer Brown. Jennifer Brown spoke to the article: Over the past seven (7) years the New Boston Forestry Committee has taken a much more proactive approach to the management of the five (5) town forests under its care. It has created management plans for each forest and in accordance with the American Tree Farm System. In compliance with the Town of New Boston's bidding procedure it has authorized

and supervised select cuts of these forests to enable natural regeneration, control disease, provide natural habitat for wildlife, control erosion and lay the foundation for systemic reforestation in the future. In conjunction with the New Boston School Board, it has also established a Christmas Tree Farm for the children of New Boston Central School. In addition, it has created an educational trail in the Todd Forest that identifies various species for all those wishing to learn more about the natural habitat of the Town. This has been an entirely volunteer effort. The money gained from the select cuts of Town Forests is held in an account which is used to purchase management tools, supplies, trees and to pay for select services such as a summer intern or expert consultants. This change is requested to support the purposes outlined above. The cost of such goods and services is increasing over time and the Committee seeks to build this fund to accommodate future needs. These efforts are important for our community to maintain New Boston's rural character, allow for wildlife corridors and healthy wildlife habitats and to prevent the tax increases that accompany new subdivisions and building of new homes. It may be necessary to purchase small equipment to construct logging access or control erosion in the future. **(No appropriation is requested and there is no effect on the tax rate.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised we are on Article 26 now, and the motion to move it along to the official ballot has been seconded, and asked if there was discussion. Those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator Nyquist advised that we now move on to our final article for consideration, it is Article 27.

Moderator read:

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article as per RSA 32:5, V-b. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Article 27 was moved by Jennifer Brown and seconded by David Litwinovich. David Litwinovich spoke to the article: The Select Board recommends including the estimated tax impact on each warrant article to provide the voter with how the specific warrant article has an impact on the tax rate. **(No appropriation is requested and there is no effect on the tax rate.)**

Moderator Nyquist advised there is a motion that has been seconded to move Article 27 to the official ballot, and asked for questions or comments. Those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

Moderator Nyquist advised that Article 29 is only to allow us to adjourn, and before he does that, he wants to thank everyone who helped tonight, the members, as he calls them, for helping with our Town Deliberative Session tonight, he greatly appreciates it, and he hopes it was instructive for the audience. Key date, Tuesday, March 14, 2023, right here, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, when all

of these articles, plus certain town officials, will be voted on, and he expects to see all of the folks there. He asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

Article 29: To act on any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Laura Bernard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Scott Hunter.

Moderator Nyquist asked those in favor of the motion to adjourn signify by saying aye. Those opposed nay. See you next year. The New Boston 2023 Deliberative Session is adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine McKim, Deputy Town Clerk